

Cambridgeport, Dec. 17. 1842.

My Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> instant has been received, and I hasten to answer it, although I am compelled by severe illness to employ for that purpose the hand of a friend. I am just recovering from an attack of Scarlet fever, which has reduced me to the brink of the grave, and which must be my excuse if I do not enter into all the topics suggested by your letter as fully, as you may think their importance deserves.

I do not think such a impudence as you suggest would be of any service to the cause; because I think it must be based upon ~~the~~ admiring what I cannot give my present ~~opinion~~ <sup>A.S.</sup> There would imply <sup>1<sup>st</sup> that it is "minor differences" ~~of opinion~~, that keep the individuals you mention, from acting in concert with myself & the other members of the American A.S. Society; 2<sup>d</sup> that any "unhappy divisions" exist among the true Abolitionists of the country; 3<sup>d</sup> that "the great vital and essential principles of abolition are held in common by all abolitionists" - <sup>Supposing</sup> you intend to include the <sup>individuals</sup> ~~persons~~ you mention as belonging to that number; 4<sup>th</sup> that "matters of opinion & modes of action, not necessarily connected with, & belonging to, the subject of Slavery" have ever been brought upon the A.S. Platform by those who now ~~still~~ occupy it; 5<sup>th</sup> that such an union as you propose is practicable between such men as myself and such</sup>

Then state & mind being what  
men as those you mention, ~~in which I have reason to~~  
~~their actions indicate,~~  
~~suppose their present state of mind, & that <sup>the attempt to</sup> ~~of alienation~~~~  
~~formed it would be sustained & supported with God's~~  
blessing; - & all which proportions I must enter my  
distinct, foreknowledge & unqualified dissent.

The Abolitionists of the country, embodied in the  
American & Nat<sup>l</sup> A. S. Society, with whom I am  
identified, stand in the same position, & present the  
same front to Slavery, that they have ever done since  
the commencement of the campaign. Their Platform is  
the same it has ever been. If minor differences have  
caused any persons to leave it - they also remain upon it  
are not to blame for it. In my opinion, the true Abolitionists  
of the country were never more united among themselves,  
as to all the essentials of doctrines & measures, than at the  
present time. The individuals you mention I cannot consent  
to meet ~~so~~ <sup>in the way</sup> ~~Abolitionists~~ you propose, because by so doing  
I should recognize them as Abolitionists, & about charac-  
-ter <sup>they have</sup> purposed all claim by  
their conduct in time past & present; by what  
they have done, & what they have left undone. I prefer, <sup>in part</sup>,  
to the circumstances attending the transfer of the Emanci-  
-pator, & the <sup>mis</sup> management of the other property of the Am. A. S.  
Society; to the false oaths which were made <sup>up</sup> before the  
Court, of the ~~matters~~ of the Leesburg of 1839 & 1840;

to the slanders & libels which were circulated in this country & in Europe respecting myself & other Abolitionists, for the purpose of destroying the confidence of the A. S. Public in our integrity & moral character. <sup>for these</sup> ~~the persons in question were <sup>not</sup> guilty either of principles or of achespries, either by their~~ ~~Li - enthercepted~~  
through the <sup>not</sup> ~~seafloor~~ ~~Li - enthercepted~~ direct agency, or by the scheme of an affected neutrality.

The Abolitionists of the country, ~~as~~ I repeat, stand where they have always done. They cannot move from their position without securing the co-operation of any persons whatever, without compromising their principles. They are ready to welcome to their ranks all manner of persons who wish to enter in the ~~the~~ warfare against Slavery. If the ~~persons~~ gentlemen whom you address with me to meet have repented of their ~~misdeeds~~ wrong doings towards the A. S. cause & its supporters and wish to make confession & separation, they will be received with open arms, & all that is just will be forgiven, ~~propositions~~. But ~~no~~ <sup>no</sup> ~~can~~ <sup>can</sup> be made by those who ~~are~~ <sup>in my opinion</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>with</sup> me that will satisfy to secure their co-operation that <sup>may</sup> imply that their action has been otherwise than blame worthy in the highest degree.

This imperfect sketch of my views on this subject will satisfy you that, <sup>in my opinion</sup> such a conference would be of no advantage as long as the persons you wish

me to meet & remain unrepentant, & continue to justify their course in the particulars to what I have alluded, & <sup>in</sup> others to what I have not had time to refer; - and when they do see the error of their ways and wish to amend them, it will be clearly unnecessary. All they will ~~need~~ <sup>have</sup> to do, in such case, will be to express their state of their minds & to return to active duty upon the Platform, & by the side of the friends, they have deserted.

Exonerate this imperfection of this letter ~~which is in consequence~~ of the I have gone into my reasons for declining your proposition at some length - though by no means in as full & satisfactory a manner as I could have wished - because I supposed from the ~~fact~~ <sup>circumstances</sup> of your making that application to me that the party in the case ~~were~~ <sup>one</sup> not fresh in your mind. ~~Please excuse the length of~~ ~~this letter & all its imperfections~~ in consideration ~~of~~ <sup>the</sup> circumstances under which it was written.

I am truly yours

278141 w  
Aug 16 1877  
Answey P W F